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B O R O U G H o f W A R E H A M

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

PREFACE

Public Health Office,
12a Institute Road,
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Wareham

Madam Mayor, Mrs. Nelson and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the Year 1955.

The Report is set out in sections in the following order:-

	<u>Pages</u>
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The health of the Borough remained satisfactory throughout the year and the cases of notifiable diseases were few.

The estimated mid-year population is the same as in the previous year. There were 21 fewer births than in 1954; a year which showed an increase of 29 births. There were 4 fewer deaths than last year.

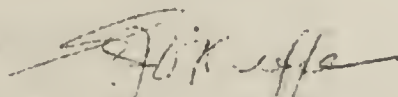
It is pleasing to note the fall in the number of applications from residents in the Borough for rehousing, and it appears that almost all the more urgent cases have been rehoused. A most satisfactory feature of the year has been the increased number of houses being improved with the aid of grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949.

The provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations which were made during the year and which come into force in 1956 give the Council wider powers for securing the maintenance of hygienic conditions of food premises and the cleanliness of all articles and persons employed in food premises.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration during the year, and my thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector and other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,


Medical Officer of Health

August, 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. J. O'Keeffe, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. R. Tanner, M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health holds in addition the following appointments -

Medical Officer of Health for the Swanage Urban District.
Medical Officer of Health for the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District
Assistant Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance is provided for the Medical Officer of Health jointly by the Authorities concerned.

The Sanitary Inspector in addition to his statutory duties is also Borough Surveyor and Petroleum Officer.

The Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health are -

The Law and General Purposes Committee.
The Waterworks, and Sewerage Works Committee.
The Housing Committee.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Statistics

1. Area of the Borough	...	...	710 acres
2. Population			
At Census 1951	...	...	2,760
As estimated by Registrar General - mid 1955			2,770
3. Total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book -			
At end of 1954	...		890
At end of 1955	...		853
4. Rateable value at 1st. April, 1955	...		£17,135
5. Sum represented by Penny Rate	...		£67.13.11d.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>					
Total registered	...	...	39	19	20
Legitimate	...	...	34	16	18
Illegitimate	...	...	5	3	2
<u>Still Births</u>					
Total registered	...	...	1	1	-
Legitimate	...	...	1	1	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths</u>					
Total registered	...	...	61	29	32
<u>Infant Mortality</u>					
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	-	-	-
Legitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:</u>					
Total registered	...	...	-	-	-
Legitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES - 1955

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population 14.1

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population 22.0

Area Comparability Factors

Births 1.11

Deaths 0.73

		Wareham Borough	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate	... per 1,000 Home Population	15.6	15.0
Still Birth Rate	... per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	25.0	23.1
Death Rate	... per 1,000 Home Population	16.1	11.7
Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 Live Births	... all causes under 1 year of age	0.0	24.9

CAUSES OF DEATH - YEAR 1955

(Supplied by the Registrar General)

Cause of death				Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough	...	...	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-	-
8	Measles	...	...	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	1	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	2	-	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	3	1	4
15	Leukemia, alsukemia	...	...	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	...	...	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	7	11	18
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	3	3	6
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	1	3
20	Other heart diseases	...	...	4	8	12
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	2	1	3
22	Influenza	...	...	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia	...	...	1	2	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	2	-	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	-	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	-	-	-
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	-	-	-
34	All other accidents	...	...	-	1	1
35	Suicide	...	...	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-	-
Total				29	32	61

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no general change in the source of water supply to the Borough except that work on the new 9" main across the Common and 6" main across the North Causeway was commenced towards the end of the year. The other pump at the Waterworks was also converted during the year to give increased output and the average pumping rate over the year was 11,000 gallons per hour. The quality of the treated water remains very satisfactory and was so throughout the year except for a brief period just before Christmas when there was disturbance due to the testing operations on the new mains. Frequent washing out, however, and increased dosage of chlorination rectified this defect. Temporary shortages at high points on the system continued as in previous years but the installation of the new mains will, it is hoped, provide adequate gravitational pressures throughout the Borough without the need for boosting. Now that the one well only is in use and the use of the old well is discontinued, consideration will have to be given to another well being sunk as a duplicate source in view of the ever increasing water consumption and likely development. The high consumption rate was no doubt due to the exceptionally dry summer; the public were asked to exercise strict economy in the use of water but at no time was it necessary to restrict supply.

The average daily consumption of water was approximately 156,000 gallons.

Wareham Borough	...	...	129,500
British Railways	...	...	16,500
Wareham & Purbeck R.D.C.	...	...	10,000

<u>Water Supply to Houses in the Borough</u>	<u>Percentage of Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Percentage of Population</u>
<u>From Public Mains</u>		
(a) Direct to dwelling houses	98.43	98.92
(b) By means of standpipe	0.71	0.44
<u>From Private Wells</u>		
(a) Direct to dwelling houses	0.43	0.48
(b) Not piped to dwelling houses	0.43	0.16

Bacteriological Examination of Water

(i) Public Supply:

Probable number of B.Coli MacConkey 2 days, 37°C per 100 ml.	No. of Samples			
	Treated Water 4l		Raw Water 2	
	Total Coli	Faecal Coli	Total Coli	Faecal Coli
Nil	32	38	2	2
1	2	1	-	-
3	2	-	-	-
5	2	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-
30	1	1	-	-
180	1	1	-	-

The unsatisfactory samples of treated water were due to disturbance caused by the laying of the new main when samples were taken before effective sterilization of the main was carried out.

<u>(ii) Other Supplies</u>	<u>Total No. of samples</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Faecal Coli per 100 ml.</u>
Well	1	1	50
River	1	1	over 180

These sources of supply are to be discontinued and connection is to be made to the Council's main.

CHEMICAL ANALYSESCertificate of Analysis of a sample of Untreated Water - Worgret Waterworks

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results: (expressed as parts per million).

Ammonia, free	...	...	0.210	Ammonia, albuminoid	...	0.280
Nitrites	...	...	0.32	Nitrates, as Nitric nitrogen	...	4.74
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.				Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.		
at 80°F	...	...	1.200	at 80°F	...	2.000
Chlorine	...	...	27.5	Chlorine as sodium chloride	...	45.32
Hardness, temporary	...	...	51.25	Total solids	...	146.0
" permanent	...	...	40.00	pH value	...	6.3
" total	...	...	91.25	Metals: Lead, copper, zinc	absent.	
Appearance: colourless & clear				Iron	...	2.20 p.p.m.
Odour: none				Free Carbon dioxide	...	80.0 p.p.m.
Free chlorine: nil						

Remarks:

This is a moderately soft water of good appearance and organic purity. It is on the acid side of neutrality and contains a large amount of carbon dioxide; it would, therefore have a corrosive action on metals, particularly lead; iron and zinc. It should be treated to remove the carbon dioxide before circulating in the Mains. The figures show no signs of pollution.

(Signed) A.S.Carlos.

Public Analyst.

Certificate of Analysis of a sample of Treated Water - Worgret Waterworks

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results: (expressed as parts per million).

Ammonia, free	...	...	0.140	Ammonia, albuminoid	...	0.280
Nitrites	...	...	0.005	Nitrates, as Nitric nitrogen	...	3.71
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.				Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.		
at 80°F	...	...	0.888	at 80°F	...	1.403
Chlorine	...	...	38.0	Chlorine as sodium chloride	...	46.14
Hardness: temporary	...	...	70.00	Total solids	...	164.0
permanent	...	...	27.25	pH value	...	7.6
total	...	...	97.25	Metals: lead, copper, zinc	absent	
Appearance: Colourless and clear.				iron	...	0.42 p.p.m.
Odour: None				Free carbon dioxide	...	Nil
Free Chlorine	...	...	0.04			

Remarks:

This is a moderately soft water of high organic purity and good appearance. It is on the acid side of neutrality. The figures indicate that the water would not be of a corrosive nature, and in my opinion, is suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) A.S. Carlos

Public Analyst.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There were no major extensions to the sewerage system or the disposal works. The sewerage system, in addition to serving the Borough, receives sewage from 58 houses in the Bestwall area of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council which lies just outside the Borough boundary. During the year two more large lagoons were excavated and it is hoped to continue in this respect until the whole area is laid out so that the works will present a more regular and neater pattern; in addition it will be much easier to control effluent which does unavoidably escape at times, especially during heavy rains, over the perimeter of the works. The screen of cypressus lawsoniana trees are beginning to take shape on the northern boundary. Also during the year a skip and miniature railway track was obtained and this has facilitated sludge removal and the control of this will reduce nuisance from smell to a minimum. Flooding has occurred again at the Quay due to flooding of the sewers during storms but steps are being taken to overcome this; at the end of the year the sewers between the Quay and the South Pumping Station were being scraped and cleaned.

No. of houses not connected to the sewer	...	...	14
No. of houses with pail closets	...	...	7
No. of houses with cesspools	...	...	7
No. of pail closets abolished during the year			1
No. of cesspools abolished	...	...	-
No. of houses connected to sewer	...	...	23
No. of new cesspools	...	...	1

Drainage works carried out

New drainage systems replacing those unsatisfactory		3
Sewers and drains cleared	...	5

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREASummary of Inspections

Bakehouses	6	Infectious diseases	1
Building Byelaws	107	Miscellaneous	166
Butchers Shops	5	Public Lavatories	10
Cafes	5	Rats and Mice	1
Dairies	2	Samples: Water Bact. 47)	
Drainage	28	Chem. 2)	
Drainage tests	38	River 1)	55
Food Premises	8	Ice-cream 5)	
Food Inspection	10	Sewerage & sewage	
Housing (Housing Acts)	203	disposal works	62
(Purpose)	487	Water Supply	39
(Public Health Acts)	16	W/Shops/Factories	3
Ice-Cream Premises	5		

Total ... 1257

Statutory and Informal Notices

<u>Notices</u>	<u>Number served</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Informal	3	3	-
Statutory	-	-	-

Disinfection

There was no disinfection carried out during the year.

Control of Moveable Dwellings

Regular visits are made to the one Caravan site in the Borough at the North Causeway to ensure that satisfactory sanitary conditions are maintained. The sewage disposal plant is not functioning satisfactorily and the lessee is having some improvement made.

Verminous Premises - No cases of verminous premises were reported.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

House and trade refuse collection is undertaken by the Council and collections are made weekly. The Council's employees assist as far as possible in the maintenance of the refuse tip situated within the adjoining Rural District.

Swimming Baths

There are no swimming baths in the Borough. Bathing takes place in the river Frome near the Quay during summer months.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The following is a copy of the Rodent Officer's report for the year.

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>All others including business premises</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Total</u>
Notified	-	15	2	-	17
Surveyed	4	27	31	2	64
Rats (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	2	7	3	1	13
Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	-	15	12	-	27
Treated by L.A.	2	10	3	-	15

All agriculture treated by County A.C.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply:

All milk now sold in the Borough is either 'Pasteurised', 'Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised' or 'Tuberculin Tested', as the Borough is part of a specified area under Section 45 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Number of Milk Distributors on register 31.12.55 ... 7

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were renewed by the Council and were in force at the end of the year:-

Dealer's Licence for Tuberculin tested pasteurised milk	...	2
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised milk	...	2
Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested milk	...	1

Milk Sampling

The following are particulars of milk samples taken in the district by the Food and Drugs Authority for examination:-

Designation	No. of Samples	Results of Tests			
		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	6	6	-	6	-
Tuberculin tested	3	3	-		

Food Inspected and condemned

Tinned Goods	...	1 cwt.	0 qtrs.	20 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	26 lbs.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All foods condemned are disposed of by burying.

Food Premises

1. Number of Food premises by type of business in the area

Grocers	...	9	Fish Shops	4
Greengrocers	...	4	Fried Fish Shops	3
Butchers	...	5	Sweets & Confectionery	5
Dairies	...	1	Cafes & Restaurants	7
Bakehouses	...	2	Licensed premises	11
			(including 3 hotels)	

2. Number of Food Premises by Type Registered

(a) Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act

Manufacture of sausages and preserved foods	...	8
Fish Frying	...	3
Sale of Ice Cream	...	15

(b) Under Milk and Dairies Regulations

Dairy premises	...	1
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3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacturing sausages...	...	8
Fish Frying Premises	...	4
Ice Cream Premises	...	5
Dairy premises	...	2

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Shops.

Inspection of these premises during the year showed that in general the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory. The new Food Hygiene Regulations which comes into force on the 1st. January, 1956 make certain new provisions with a view to improving food hygiene and the Sanitary Inspector will be carrying out an inspection of all the food establishments to ensure that the Regulations are complied with.

Ice-Cream (Heat-treatment, etc.) Regulations

No action was necessary under these Regulations.

Clean Food Campaigns

There were no educational activities undertaken in the district in connection with clean food campaigns during the year.

No formal action was taken during the year under the Byelaws with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

H O U S I N G

During the year the Sanitary Inspector carried out a survey to ascertain the number of unfit houses in the Borough and those liable for demolition and estimated that 20 would come within this category. On the whole the Inspector found housing conditions fairly good and there are no areas where wholesale clearance will be necessary.

With regard to rendering houses fit by carrying out repairs and improvements it is hoped that owners will avail themselves of the grants now available under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which the Council are making. During the year a further 14 houses were improved with this grant aid.

A total of 22 houses were erected during the year - 16 Council dwellings including 8 bungalows and 6 by private enterprise. No immediate building projects are contemplated and it is hoped that many of the families displaced from unfit houses will be rehoused within the existing Council houses, and that for general needs private enterprise will play its part with new layouts envisaged in the Borough.

The following shows the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses at the end of 1955 -

Persons residing in the Borough	...	...	28
Persons residing outside the Borough	...	...	35
Aged Persons - (Borough bungalows)	...	...	31

Housing Programme

<u>Site</u>	<u>No. of houses proposed</u>	<u>Completed in 1955</u>	<u>Completed since 1945</u>
Bere Road (Kingsbere Estate)	137	8	116
Moreton's Lane	10	-	10
Cockpits Housing site	2	-	2
Red Lion Garden site	4	-	4
Moreton's Lane Housing site	2	-	2
Howards Lane site	3	-	3
Ropers Lane site	8	8	8
	<u>166</u>		<u>145</u>

(Ø Borough Bungalows)

New Houses

Total number erected during 1955	...	...	...	22
Number erected with State assistance	(a)	By Local Authority	...	16
	(b)	By other Bodies or persons	-	

Houses Owned by Local Authority

Type	Built pre-war	Built since 1945	Total
Permanent traditional	103	135	238
Temporary Prefabricated bungalows	-	10	10

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was very little notifiable infectious disease in the Borough during the year, a total of eleven cases being notified.

There were no cases notified of tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, dysentery or food poisoning. There were no deaths due to notifiable disease, and only one case - meningococcal infection, was admitted to hospital.

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, and vaccination against smallpox is available at the Local Health Authority's Child Welfare Centre, and is also provided by the medical practitioners. In addition vaccination with B.C.G. against tuberculosis is provided for children of school leaving age by the Local Health Authority.

Notifications (Corrected) Figures

Disease	Total	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Admitted to Hospital
Measles	7	-	-	6	1	-
Scarlet fever	1	-	-	-	1	-
Acute pneumonia	1	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	1	-	1	-	-	1

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1955

Disease	Total	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	Ov.25	A.U.
Measles	7	-	1	3	2	-	-	1	-
Scarlet fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
		Under 5		5 - 14		15 - 44	45-64	65-Ov.	A.U.
Acute Pneumonia	1	-		-		-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-		-		-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection	1	1		-		-	-	-	-

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

Four cases of verminous condition of the scalp of school children were reported during the year. There were no cases of scabies.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47, Removal of Persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises

There were no cases during the year where it was necessary to proceed under the provisions of Section 47 of the 1948 Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	5	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	27	3	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	32	3	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No.of cases in which prosecutions were insti- tuted
	Found	Re- medied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(s4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Section 110 and 111

Outworkers ... Nil

